

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

2 August 1985

Mr. James M. Ragsdale
Editor
NEW BEDFORD STANDARD-TIMES
555 Pleasant Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02742

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

We recently received a copy of your 13 July 1985 editorial which made a number of incorrect assumptions about CIA's complaint to the Federal Communications Commission. Had you taken the time to look into the subject, you would have known that our complaint had nothing to do with our "like" or "dislike" for the program. We objected to ABC's broadcasting an almost totally false story that accused the CIA of committing illegalities and improprieties and after our protest retracting only one of the many falsehoods. The complaint makes clear that we were asking for an investigation and retraction of all the charges, not for "punishment" of ABC.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the petition for reconsideration that CIA filed with the FCC last February and a copy of our public statement on the petition. The CIA takes seriously charges that it acts counter to the laws established to govern it and whenever possible--particularly in such outrageous circumstances as the ABC broadcast--tries to respond publicly to them. One wonders why you are so ready to believe that CIA is engaged in a "petty vendetta" rather than to question how ABC could broadcast a story that had been declared false not only by the CIA but by other journalists and then refuse to correct the untruths.

Sincerely,


George V. Lauder

Director, Public Affairs